even the highways are narrow tracks between rice fields or over the hills, suited only to the wheelbarrow, the sedan chair, the burden-carrying coolie, or, occasionally, the donkey. Then, too, the Yangtze Valley and the South, with mist-crowned hills and mountains and with abundant verdure, in contrast to the semi-arid and brown North, may well have stimulated differences in the expression of the aesthetic feelings, both in the painter and the poet.

Still again, China's natural resources, while heretofore ample for almost all her needs, have ceased, or are about to cease, to be so. Her population has caught up with and congested her arable lands, fertile and extensive though these are. Certainly within the last two or three centuries it has begun to spill over into adjoining regions. Improvement in agricultural methods and scientific seed selection may, as we shall see in a later chapter, enable the Chinese to utilize types of lands, very extensive, which now produce little, and to increase the yield from land now cultivated. In Manchuria and possibly in Inner Mongolia some virgin soil remains. Much of this, however, must be classed as marginal—tillable in seasons of more than average rainfall, but failing to yield a paying crop when the precipitation does not rise above its normal median. A stable and efficient government and improved methods of transportation would afford much relief from the pressure of population. These possible solutions, however, at best offer merely a reprieve. At the rate of increase maintained under the comparative peace and prosperity of the latter part of the seventeenth and of the eighteenth century, the leeway afforded by them would soon be taken up. Increasing famines,

therefore, and a further accentuation of the present grinding poverty can be avoided only by one or more of three expedients—emigration on a scale such as the world has never seen, an extensive industrialization of the country and the exchange of the products of factories for foodstuffs, or a drastic restriction in the birth rate. Other nations have already restricted Chinese immigration to most of the more salubrious, relatively unoccupied areas of the globe, such as the United States, Canada, and Australia, and are likely to continue to do so—if they can. China does not possess sufficient resources of coal and iron to sustain an industrial development as extensive as that in the United States and in Western